Middle Tennessee Chapter

A 2025 5-Star Level of Excellence Award Chapter

Military Officers Association of America

Web: https://www.mtcmoaa.org | November 2026 | Editor: Doug Minton

Next MTC Monthly Meeting:

10 November 2026;
11:30 AM-1:00 PM
MTC Monthly Luncheon Meeting

"Disaster – Financial Recovery Following a Disaster"

MAJ Gary Ward, USA (Ret)
Retired Financial Planner & MTC Chapter Member

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ONCC, 115 Gardengate Drive, Franklin, TN 37069

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Gary Ward earned a bachelor's degree in political science (Arms Control and International Terrorism) from Lafayette College. He was commissioned through ROTC as a 2LT in the Infantry. He is a graduate of the Airborne School, Ranger School, Special Forces Qualification Course and the Civil Affair Officer Qualification Course. He is a combat veteran of Operation Just Cause. He is also a graduate of the Federal Emergency Management Agency Courses ICS 100, 200, 300, 700 and 800.

Gary recently retired after 29 years in the financial planning industry (Ameriprise Financial) earning designations of the Certified Financial Planner (CFP)®, Chartered Retirement Planning Counselor (CRPC)® and Certified Military Financial Advisor (CMFA)®. Additionally, he volunteers with the Civil Air Patrol (CAP), USAF Auxiliary as the Emergency Service Officer for the Music City Composite Squadron and a Liaison Officer to the Tennessee Emergency Management Agency (TEMA).

He served as the primary liaison between CAP and TEMA during the State's response to Hurricane Katrina and the 2010 Tennessee floods. Following the 2010 floods, he was asked to become the Emergency Liaison Officer for Tennessee Voluntary Organization Active in Disaster (TNVOAD is the primary coordinating agency for managing disaster response efforts from national, state and community based voluntary organizations in TN). He has served in every major disaster from 2010 to 2025, including Gatlinburg fires, Middle Tennessee tornadoes (Clarksville, Nashville, Green County, Mt Juliet) Waverly flooding, Winter ice storms and COVID response.

Please join us for Part Two of his Didsaster Preparedness & Recovery Series of presentations.

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Please make note of the upcoming MTC schedule changes:

Our November meeting is always scheduled to avoid the Thanksgiving Holiday; however, this year, it is also going to be re-scheduled for the MOAA National Affiliated Council & Chapters Southeast Regional Workshop being held in Chattanooga, TN on 16 – 17 November. Please note that our November meeting will now be held on **10 November at Old Natchez Country Club.**

This schedule change also means that our **Annual Toys for Tots Collection will be held on 10 November**. *Most years many of our members forget this event and arrive at the meeting without a toy so please make note of this event, and plan on bringing a new, unwrapped toy to contribute to the local Marine Corps Reserve Toys for Tots Collection (no bikes or large toys please).*

Presidents Letter

Reminder, this month's luncheon is 2 weeks early this year. We're meeting on **10 November 2026** at Old Natchez Country Club. This is to accommodate a MOAA National regional event in Chattanooga, TN that several members of the chapter executive board will be attending and for Thanksgiving. Please join us to hear the MTC MOAA chapter second VP Gary Ward deliver part 2 of financial recovery after a disaster.
We will be collecting unwrapped, new toys for boys and girls ages 0-12. Please consider purchasing something and bring it to the **10 November** luncheon so it can be distributed appropriately. This will be the last luncheon for 2026.

Veterans who are residents of Williamson County are invited to attend the free (for the veteran) Veteran Appreciation Brunch at the Cool Springs Marriott on Saturday 7 Nov 2026 from 0930-1230. It is hosted/sponsored by the Republican Women of Williamson County, but this is an apolitical event and all veterans are invited. You need to register in advance so they can have a head count for the brunch buffet. Tickets for spouses or other guests may be purchased. To register, buy tickets, and see the agenda (speaker too) go to this website: https://www.rwwilco.org/events . Past events have been a similar format to our MTC luncheon with a prayer, color guard, singing of the national anthem and a veteran speaker talking about the importance of veterans in the community, service to the country and/or a historical experience of their service.

The Tennessee MOAA Council of Chapters met for the quarterly meeting on 21 Oct 2026 and voted to defer approval of the updated by-laws. They are always looking for the Tennessee chapter's membership to get involved with the council. Please see me, Doug Minton, Larry Cotton, John Ohlinger, Majella Stevenson, Gary Ward or Karon Uzzell-Baggett if you need more information.

I hope to have updates for you in the December newsletter about meeting locations, dates, and costs for 2027. I also hope each of you and your families have a chance to celebrate and spend time together. I will be in charge again of smoking a turkey for the meal, 3 of my 4 kids can make it this year. If interested, we get our turkey from a local farmer: https://taylorfamilyfarmtn.com/.

Dale Kiser, Chapter President

MIDDLE TENNESSEE CHAPTER
Military Officers Association of America
P. O. Box 50252
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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Upcoming Programs & Events

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"MTC Annual USMCR Toys for Tots Collection"
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11 November 2026
"Area Veterans Day Events"

The **Brentwood** Veterans Day Ceremony will be held on November 11 at 11 AM at the Brentwood Police Headquarters, 910 Heritage Way.

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The **Columbia** Veterans Day Parade will be held on November 11 at 11 AM; beginning at 308 W 7th St, Columbia, TN

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The **Franklin** Veterans' Day Parade will be held in Downtown Franklin on November 11, at 11 AM. Prior to the parade, a reception will be held at the Williamson County Archives from 9 a.m. until 11 a.m. for local veterans and their families.

The **Nashville** Veterans Day Parade will be held at 11 AM on November 11. The parade is organized by *The Mission Continues: Nashville Platoon.* The route runs straight down Broadway, from the upper end near 13th Avenue down toward the river. Lineup starts earlier in the morning, and the city closes the strip to traffic, so plan your walk in.

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16 - 17 November 2026
"MOAA Southern Region Leader's Workshop"
Chattanooga, TN
(This event is scheduled for Chapter leaders in the region every two years. The November timing of this session, as well as the Thanksgiving Holiday necessitated quite a few changes to our normal schedule.)

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Merry Christmas & Happy New Year
No MTC Meeting in December
Enjoy the time with your other family!

Legislative Update

What a strange experience it is to write about legislation and legislators before the November General Election while realizing that you won't read this until afterwards and the results came in. Did the candidates you voted for get elected; and now, do you have a way to communicate with them?

Until 3 January at Noon, the existing members remain in office anyway. They still have votes to cast, and what can you do to move them along? Needing to move along is the Richard Star Act which has enjoyed enormous support at the level of co-sponsorship, but it has languished on Capitol Hill and primarily for financial reasons. It could be expensive. Now might be a perfect time to push it over the hilltop – every pun intended. The Legislative Action Center on the MOAA.org website is available 24/7, so there is a task to achieve right now.

As for the new members of Congress, it is time to establish some relationships – not only with them but with their key staffers. Those will probably shuffle in January. Who do you know on Capitol Hill and their local offices. If you can help me to make good contacts, I would really appreciate it.

Now to the state level: The Tennessee Legislature is out of session until January, so there is no active legislation – but there will be. Bills need to be filed early, so work continues anyway. There is a new state action center being created. Right now, the Tennessee portion is empty, but I will be loading it with new items when they appear after the new year. I will also give instructions then about how to use the site. Watch this space…

I have been serving our chapter in the legislative liaison for six years, and is there somebody out there who would like to relieve me? Thanks ahead for thinking about that.

Finally, here is a piece of wisdom in our MOAA Culture:
MOAA Will Never Stop Serving from the Earliest Days in Uniform to Retirement and Beyond.

CDR Ted Edwards, USN Ret
MTC Legislative Liaison

MOAA Legislative Action Center
www.moaa.org/takeaction